Interview with Mrs. Mary Jane Strickland
Conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson and
Miss Paula Boyer - March 5, 1977

TAPE 1 - SIDE 1 & 2

DODSON: Mrs. Strickland, I wonder if you would give us your full name and tell us how long you've lived here in the valley?

STRICKLAND: I'm Mary Jane Strickland, Mary Jane Paul Strickland and I have lived here since 1924. Although, I was born in Texas. My mother went there on a vacation and I was born there. But we lived on about 5th and Palm at the time in Burbank. And then I returned here and I've lived here ever since. And at that time...well in 1921 my father was the Chief of Police and he was in law work and then for a short period we moved to San Pedro, where he was a probation officer and they had the ships tied up in the bay there with booze on them. And he was responsible for that. And that's about the only time I've lived out of Burbank that I can recollect or remember. But I went to school here and started at Emerson School which was on San Fernando and Magnolia. And then I went to McKinley, Lincoln School, John Burroughs, which is now a high school. It was a junior high then, then I went to Burbank High School. I was married...let's see, I was 17.

when I was married. And that was just about the war was breaking out, 1940 around, and that's one of my most vivid memories of Burbank. Because we lived on the 200 block, Myer Street and just down the street from us, about three blocks was a artillery...they brought in this anti-craft guns and they had a battery of the servicemen there. And when you'd have a blackout, the lights would go on and the sirens would go and you could the...as they would turn this anti-aircraft gun, you could hear it clicking. It was very unnerving.

BOYER: That's very interesting. We've never heard that before.

STRICKLAND: You haven't?

BOYER: No, I haven't. Did they have places like that set up throughout Burbank, possibly because of Lockheed I assume.

STRICKLAND: Yes, because of Lockheed. And the this was at Reese and Oak. There's two houses there now. I mean it was this whole area. And there was oh probably 20-25 men there. And everything would go dark and then we would go in the house and pull out shades down. And then we'd all run outside and watch to see what

was happening. Prior to that, no it was after that it was 1943, it was after that, that particular apartment my sister was living there, a P38 crashed into it and hit the roof the St. Pinbar Catholic Church and it was Lt. Colonel Diaz was flying it. It flew it from Grandview Airport in Glendale to...he was going to eventually land on Lockheed supposedly but he was told I understand, that he wasn't trained to fly one because it was the double boom airplane, the P38. But he figured he knew how to fly it and he was going to. And he couldn't seem to get the altitude and he was trying eventually to get back to Glendale or something of that type and he hit the church and it completely flipped it over and it flipped over into the garages between my sister's apartment in there and he was killed. But the interesting thing of it was that he had survived the Batan Death March and he was just back here a short while and then he was killed. He went up. I think my main recollection is of things that were so different was during the war years. Of course a lot of people had those massive camouflaged, big nets. And they have pictures of it. In fact, we're getting some pictures of it...it had it looked like farm houses on the top and trees and you'd go out to Lockheed...and that was another thing, they wouldn't let you get very close to it. If you were just

cruising around you could go down Buena Vista and Hollywood Way and you could see a lot of this. But to get around to see more, you never could get that close because it was army station at Olive, the main entrances to Lockheed.

DODSON: Well, I'm glad to get this description because no one else has told us about this. Do you remember that so-called air raid that we had in Los Angeles one night? Can you tell us about that?

STRICKLAND: Really? Oh. I don't know much about it other than I remember it happening and I remember we were very frightened and I remember the submarine that was suppose to come up on Santa Barbara, the shore there, that was shot at from the shore. And I remember that. I don't remember actually happening here while we were here. I just remember that we had a lot of action because of the airport. A lot of...you know, out with the lights and on with the search light things. That was a lot. And we had our block wardens that would come along.

BOYER: What would a block warden do? I'm not familiar with the term.

STRICKLAND: Well, they had a white a hat and kind of a symbol. I can't remember what the symbol was...and they would come up your street and if you had your lights on, I think they would rap on your door and tell you, "Turn off your lights, pull your blinds down." Generally, you wouldn't have to because we were so close to that artillery thing that the minute anything would happen you would hear it. We almost knew it instantly. He would go up and down the block and just make sure all the lights were off.

BOYER: Did you have a regular black out like that every night after a certain hour or who was it just...

STRICKLAND: No, they weren't regular. There was no set pattern to them.

BOYER: They just let you know by the siren?

STRICKLAND: Yeah, according to some of the servicemen that were down there. Once in awhile you would talk to them when you'd go by and it would be, if they picked up anything on a radar they thought would be anywhere in this whole area. As I understand we were reamed with this artillery and we never really knew what set off...nothing ever happened of course. But it did happen quite a bit.

BOYER: And so then Burbank had a lot armed forces stationed here basically?

STRICKLAND: There was up on Amherst in Glenoaks where our McCambrige Park is, now that was what we called the barracks. The Ben Ma? Barracks and they were used for service and they were housed there. And then after the war they converted them into low rent housing for servicemen that were coming home and they kept that there...I don't remember the exact date, but it was a great thing and they looked pretty nice for awhile and you were lucky if you could get one, when the servicemen come home to live in there. In fact, my sister lived one. Remember her Tom? For awhile, but after awhile it had become a problem area as people begin to relocate and go back to work. We got a lot of vandalism, a lot of bad element because it was cheap rent and then it had become pretty evident that a lot of these people would stay there forever. And it was like the same thing with Basslong homes, you know out there by the damn. It was the same type of project that was there. Only ours were army barracks. They weren't the nicer...the ones out there were a little better than what we had.

BOYER: Did they finally just tear down those rentals?

STRICKLAND: The city went in after everything, they figured that it was...serviced it's purpose and then made a park. It's all a park.

DODSON: We're you employed at Lockheed during the war by any chance Mrs. Strickland?

STRICKLAND: Yes, I was. I went to work...I had to wait for my 18th birthday before they would hire me and I went out there and they signed me up and I was...it was just three or four days before I was 18 and I went to work out there. And they trained me as a riveter, and then I went to work at what we called then the 3 G's plant. That's where the 3 G's distillery was on San Fernando Road. It was Rebber Aircraft is now. And it use to be a brewery. They use to make booze there. And we worked out there on the P38 and I worked in the final assembly. Which at that time paid more money for women and you know really unskilled labor. They paid me $1.10 an hour then.

DODSON: Since that was an unusual profession for women, how were you received as a riveter by the men in the plant?

STRICKLAND: Not very well.

DODSON: Can you tell us a little bit about that?

STRICKLAND: Yes, they took all of us women into this one building. It was like a shed and it was open. They use to roll these big doors back and there was a lot of us women there. And of course we were young and there was a couple of them that we're really good looking and then the men would go by, back and forth, back and forth. See they'd make remarks all the time about the women, you know. "They're not here to work. They just here to distract us." And we went through a lot of that. So then they put in these departments after they trained us. At first when we went in there, the supervisor of my particular department was very helpful but the lead man wasn't. He was very very resentful and he kept telling us, "We didn't know how to do the work. We were more problem than we were worth." And this went on and on and on. And finally we did show that we could do the work. And we would do things...a lot of things they couldn't do. Like we use to get inside the aft boom and do a lot of the riveting where they couldn't get into. And that was the year that they had the infamous Christmas celebration at Lockheed. That it was almost a national disgrace because everybody just got roaring drunk and they partied. It was written up in the paper and

everything. It really was, it was a terrible, terrible thing. They were drinking on the job and they said, "How can people do this? When there's a war going on." Oh it was really bad. It was written up in all the papers about the scandalous goings on at Lockheed.

DODSON: Incidentally, since we're talking about Lockheed, how do you think most Burbank people feel about the Hollywood/Burbank Airport? Do they want it out or do they want to keep it?

STRICKLAND: Well, it was voted in as you know 80% of the people voted it in this year. We had it put on the ballet in November and the consensus is...well that proves that the majority want it. They also realize there's a lot of problems that will have to be overcome because of the noises. The environmental impact and the noise abatement. And we understand that they are things that can be done to the jets to make them quieter. But so far there's been nothing, no laws to make them do it. It's a very very expensive thing to do it.

DODSON: Is most of the opposition coming from North Hollywood rather than from Burbank?

STRICKLAND: Yeah, Sherman Oaks. A lot of it from Sherman Oaks, that area there. It seems that when they make their curve to come in on our runway from the North Hollywood area, it evidently curves over that part. A lot of objection from there. Sun Valley...a lot of people because as they come in to the approach from the north runway, they come very very low there. And it's pretty loud. This city is aware of this and they talk about a lot and try to figure out what would be the best but the things that would happen far out weigh the loss of the airport. If we lost it we lose about 600 jobs or businesses that are related to the airport, just in that vicinity. And it would be of payroll somewhere in the $6,000,000. In fact, I have the report on it over here. I brought it home. It would nearly ruin part of our financial, the City of Burbank's financial set up because they are the largest users of public utilities which now is not good but it has been a basis, a tax basis that the city needs. And there are so many people that work there or do related work to the airport.

DODSON: Of course from my point of view I would like to see it stay as a matter of convenience. Living in La Cresenta, I usually fly from Burbank Airport. L.A. International would be very inconvenient for me.

This is what's one of the worries of a lot of people. The fact that La Cresenta and that area, Pasadena, they have all supported in this, in the joint powers agreement. But the people are afraid because of this support and people in these outer areas they don't hear the noise, but they want the service. They're afraid that we're going to increase the service. And in order to show a huge profit they would have to increase the traffic by about a third but the city claims that they are not going to increase the traffic. They are going to try and get the FCC to maybe let them change some the scheduling in order to get better coverage.

DODSON: Will the airport has now constituted pay a profit to the city or would it lose without expanding the service?

STRICKLAND: Right now it pays its way. They will never make a lot of money off of it. The only way they would, would be to expand it. But they have no plans to expand it because the money that is generated from the businesses that support the area and the related businesses outweigh making more money on the flights alone.

DODSON: I see. I would think then that the city would be content as long as the airport itself is making its expenses just to go along on the present basis.

STRICKLAND: Right, right. Because it's not...well say your coming from La Crescenta and you come here and you go to the airport. You may eat in one of the restaurants, you may park in the parking lot, you may pull in one of the gas stations. It generates business and you know there is a new ? a new hotel going right across from it.

BOYER: That's what I was going to ask you. I heard something about it and they've decided to let it be built now?

STRICKLAND: It passed Tuesday night. They're going to break ground within 6 months.

BOYER: I'm sure you'll get a lot of business there of business men coming in.

STRICKLAND: Right, because we have no major hotel in Burbank, nothing.

DODSON: Well, I imagine that indicates that the persons financing the hotel are fairly sure the future of the airport then, or they wouldn't build it.

STRICKLAND: Yes, this is some question because they have asked for a seven month escrow. But they claim that they're going to build regardless.

BOYER: What company is it that's building do you know?

STRICKLAND: All I know is the man that's representing it is a Mr. Wolf. And they are a big outfit and there plans are great. They're going to have racket courts and sauna baths and it's going to have like 200 rooms. They're taking a very large area in redevelopment area.

BOYER: Well, that sounds like that would be good because people coming into the studios might decide to fly into Burbank instead and then stay there. And then go ahead and stay in Burbank because they'd offer such a nice place to stay.

STRICKLAND: They do now. They normally stay at Universal Studios is usually where they stay.

BOYER: Universal must not be very happy.

STRICKLAND: They aren't.

DODSON: There's quite a hotel over there.

STRICKLAND: It's a marvelous hotel. It is a great hotel. And I really think that there's a place for both.

DODSON: Since Mrs. Strickland's mother is here, perhaps she'll tell us a little about how she happened to come to Burbank and how long she's been here.

MOTHER: Well, I haven't been in Burbank...

STRICKLAND: You didn't tell them your name either.

DODSON: Yes, by all means give us your name. We want the future to know who we're talking to here?

MOTHER: Well, my maiden name was Fox. No relation to the Fawke's, who we were often confused with and he wasn't very well liked, this other Fawke.

DODSON: No, but since we're going back into history, maybe you were related to Charles James Fox, the famous British orator.

MOTHER: Oh no. So as I say.

STRICKLAND: Your name. Blanche.

MOTHER: Now or then?

STRICKLAND: You are still Eva Blanche Fox Cole.

MOTHER: That's right, Eva Blanche Fox and my married name Cole.

STRICKLAND: Now tell them why this confusion with your name Fox. Tell them who the other Fox was.

MOTHER: Well, he was...the man handled a lot of timber and a lot of property there. And he wasn't very well liked by the neighbor for some reason. And then when they confused us with the other Fox, it made it really rough for us.

STRICKLAND: I'd like to put in here why this other Fawke was not very popular. Because he took a stand...he tried to get the people to secede from the township of Burbank and join Los Angeles over the water rights because at that time L.A. and Burbank were fighting over the water rights. And he was trying to get everybody to get involved in that and it caused a lot of hard feelings within the town. Then he also

was the Fawke that built the first monorail. He had 50...

DODSON: Oh, I've heard of that.

STRICKLAND: Well, that's the Fawke. And when they came he was working on his monorail and everybody thought he was crazy. So they didn't like that so go ahead.

DODSON: Do you remember that monorail that he was working on by any chance? Did you see any of it?

MOTHER: I was only...what was I 17 when we came.

DODSON: You came in 1913 I think you said, is that right?

MOTHER: You know all of these things are so long ago and I don't have a very good memory any more since I'm 80 years old but there's so many things you know that I just don't remember.

DODSON: Do you recall what caused you to come to Burbank in the first place? How you happened to move here?

MOTHER: Well, my father, we lived in Nebraska and he didn't like the cold winters there. He was getting older and he couldn't run the farm properly and he took a

trip to California to visit somebody and he was so taken by the climate here that he couldn't wait to get back home and sell the farm and come to California.

DODSON: And then what did he do as soon as he got here? Did he go into farming here?

MOTHER: Well no, he bought this 2 acres. It had a house on it, a fruit orchard and what did he do after that. Well he worked at something now but it escapes my mind.

STRICKLAND: Tell them that where it was, it was located on Magnolia just below the railroad tracks.

MOTHER: Yes, just below the tracks in the road on Magnolia. There was only two houses on that block. I don't know. He was really a handy man, just do anything. And right now I don't know what he did when he first came there.

DODSON: Do you remember your first impressions of Burbank after you moved here.

MOTHER: Oh, I thought it was heaven. I thought it was heaven after cold Nebraska, snow and ice.

DODSON: Were there very few houses at that time? Was it just a small village?

MOTHER: Oh yes, a small village. Not very many houses.

STRICKLAND: Remember the beautiful poppies as you got off the train.

MOTHER: Oh yes. You know when we got off the train, the poppies were in bloom. It was in March I think when we came.

DODSON: That would have been quite a contrast I imagine between Nebraska and Burbank in March.

MOTHER: Well, I can remember that we had never seen Pike's Peak and when we left Nebraska the first mountain that we saw...none of had ever seen a mountain before. And we saw Pike's Peak and then when we...

DODSON: By the way, you're talking about my home town now. I'm from Colorado Springs. Go right ahead.

MOTHER: Well as we started to descend on the lower side after we had passed the mountain, and then we saw fruit trees in bloom, flowers. Well, we'd thought we'd gone to heaven. And the further down we went,

the more beautiful it became. It was flowers, it was in the spring. The fruit trees were all in bloom. Oh, we just didn't know what to do because it was so pretty.

STRICKLAND: Tell him about when you went to get off the train in Burbank.

MOTHER: Oh, well yes. We had our ticket to Burbank and we stopped there and the conductor says, "You can't get off at Burbank. You half to go to Los Angeles." My ma and father says, "I have my ticket to Burbank and I'm going to get off at Burbank." And they argued back and forth and my father and the conductor. Well, my father won. He was pretty...so we got off in Burbank.

DODSON: Was the area around here mostly agricultural then?

MOTHER: Well, I really don't remember. I suppose it was.

DODSON: You don't remember going further west into the San Fernando Valley and having any memories especially of what that was like?

MOTHER: Well, that's been a long time ago.

DODSON: Yes, that has, hasn't it?

MOTHER: I have no idea.

DODSON: So I don't blame you for not knowing it just as though it happened yesterday.

MOTHER: Well, the San Fernando Valley wasn't much at that time.

STRICKLAND: You use to ride horses in the hills, do you remember and hiked up in here.

MOTHER: Yes, we did. And we use to climb the highest mountain too here in Burbank.

STRICKLAND: You told me you had oak trees up in the hills and there was chicken ranches up...towards the foot hills.

MOTHER: But there wasn't much residence to the foothills and mountains at that time.

STRICKLAND: And your brother John worked for Jim Jeffries.

MOTHER: Oh yeah, that's right.

STRICKLAND: In the alfalfa fields. Jim Jeffries grew alfalfa on the border of North Hollywood and Victory Blvd. And he had this acreage there and her brother worked for him for about three years on the alfalfa farms there.

DODSON: I usually associate him with something else besides farming. But he managed to do several things then.

STRICKLAND: He had cattle and alfalfa fields here. And her brother John worked for him there. And tell him about how you use to walk up on San Fernando Road with your lanterns when you'd come home from work.

MOTHER: Well, my brother and I...the Methodist Church was on the...what's the...the Methodist Church is on one of those cross streets...Alameda or some of them and my brother and I would like to go to church at night well there was no electricity or any lights. We carried a lantern when we went to church. Put it outside of the door when we went in.

DODSON: I imagine you felt rather safer with your lantern now though than a person walking out at night with all the street lights. Wouldn't you?

MOTHER: I wouldn't go out at night.

DODSON: This is something I come across in every interview I have. A comparison between crime say 30 or 40 years ago and the way it is now. And every single person has given a bad report on that particular change. How is the crime situation in Burbank? Do you feel that you have very much crime here Mrs. Strickland?

STRICKLAND: Well, the last report was there was less. It dropped somewhat and now we've just started a neighborhood watch program and in fact, last night's paper stated they this had a lot to do with it. We have a high percentage of burglaries. We have I think more murders last year than we had. Now see my husband was a policeman here for twenty-nine years until he retired. And we're pretty close to it. And my father was Chief of Police in 1921 and '22 and he left in '23.

MOTHER: '24.

STRICKLAND: '24, the year I was born. And at that time in '21 now he replaced a man who had been shot, killed, down by the railroad tracks at the hobo jungle. Mother said she heard the shot that night.

MOTHER: Yes I did.

DODSON: Is that right?

STRICKLAND: We had at that time, the highest record of recovery of stolen cars. We have a scrap book with all this in it. But through the...when we were children here...when we were going to school I really had no fear of being on the street or anything. We went everywhere and never give it a thought. We walked from school. It was not...no major problems to speak of. But during the war years it brought us many many problems with the law and it has increased. And of course burglaries is one of your biggest things now and of course your vandalism. Your juvenile crimes as far greater than they use to be.

DODSON: You feel then that the war and its aftermath did make a real change then in the nature of Burbank, as far as crime is concerned?

STRICKLAND: Crime and many other things because our streets in 1938 weren't even paved. And half the streets weren't. Just your main streets were paved. And as people would move into these areas and sewers were going in and during the war it just became such a boom town. Everything just suddenly sprung up and the first housing area that came after the war was a

very small little houses and through the years they were kind of down graded. You got a little different element than you had had before because you had lost your community group as we use to be. You would know almost everybody that you would see. And all of a sudden you had all of these strangers in your midst. And you had a lot of undesirables that came in here and went to work during the war years. And a lot of them stayed. And I think this sudden growth that we were confronted with problems we never had before. And particularly like my husband when he came back, he was in the service, he was drafted. It just seemed like it just escalated. And I don't know if it was...what it was...just more people I guess. And we are a small area and I think it's because we're more aware of what's going on in our town than a lot of people.

DODSON: That could very well be.

STRICKLAND: And of course I've worked for the city now 20 years myself.

DODSON: So you would be closer to it really than some other people would be?

STRICKLAND: I think so. I don't think it's as obvious to an outsider that there are certain problems. We are having a problem with the Hispanic people in our community. We're expanding these certain areas because it's the low rent and they have come in and they have taken jobs and they have located in here. And many of them of course they're illegal aliens. We have English as a second language class in two of our schools.

DODSON: Is that right. I didn't realize that you had minorities in any numbers here in Burbank.

STRICKLAND: Yes we have, just recently...in fact I heard it just about two weeks ago. In the area grounding about Keystone and Warner Bros. off of Olive on both sides we have over 200 Vietnamese now. NBC brought in their Vietnamese people that worked for them in Saigon and they started housing them in Burbank and this had attracted either the relatives or I don't know what it is and they're mostly Catholics and they live near St. Pinbar Church which is about in the center of this area I'm talking about.

DODSON: ...the coming of Vietnamese in any particular area of the valley.

MOTHER: That's definitely historical.

DODSON: Yes, this will be of interest to the future. To know that some of these people are settling here.

STRICKLAND: Well, the NBC Studio brought in a family and they rented a house on Olive, I think it's 7th and Olive, a big house. It use to be Mount Senior King's, the Catholic Mount Senior for Bellerman Church. That was his home and then he died, his sister stayed there and she died. Well, the house is in probate now so they rented to the studio for these people and I think there was 14 people in the house for awhile and then one of the old men died. And then evidentially they got jobs and dispersed into the area and there was one other location where they located them. They this has been in the last three years. And my friend that teaches this, English is a second language, is getting a lot of these people in her class and she's the one that told me that there 200 in that area alone. Now in our area on Glenoaks, Elmwood, Providenica, down in through there we have quite a few Chinese. We're getting a lot of Chinese people.

MOTHER: Pardon me, what about the Koreans that Scott had...

STRICKLAND: Those are Los Angeles.

MOTHER: They live in Los Angeles.

STRICKLAND: Los Angeles, yes. The Spanish people...when we were children...we lived just blocks from where it's now a lot of the Spanish people and some of them are still in those areas. We've got a lot of Cubans now that have come in to this particular area, in with the Spanish people. Because they seem to be able to talk to each other. Now they are also involved in this thing, English as a second language class. They are the same group now. They had Chinese New Year the other day and they came to City Hall with the dragon. And the children are dressed...they made little red vests for them and all the Mexican, Chinese, Vietnamese, whatever they all had the little vests on. But the interesting thing was when the dragon...when they got in City Hall and they're going around and dancing and everything, so she said they were going to leave. So the men took their dragon costume off and they were all Mexicans. So they weren't Chinese at all but they all participate in this program. And when they have Cinco de Mayo, the Chinese kids dress like the Mexicans. It's really a great program. I've gone to visit them.

DODSON: Well, this is very interesting to me. Because I've associated other parts of the valley with various minority groups but I didn't know that Burbank had any particular minority population.

STRICKLAND: It's growing. We have probably I think in the neighborhood of...I should have brought all those reports home, but about 17% Hispanic surnames in our schools.

BOYER: What kind of a program is this that your speaking about it? Is it a school system or...?

STRICKLAND: Yes, it's called English as a Second Language. And Kim Rhodes is the...in charge of it at the two schools. And what they do, they find these children in the school that have this language problem and they try to get the parents to become involved in this program and when the parents come they bring the other kids in the family. And this husband and wife, if he's home, whatever, they all participate. And while they're doing things just for the adult, they have a mother a helper and she will take the children out and she will work with the children while Kim's working with the parent. And what they do...now mind you...she does not speak any foreign

language. She's learning more Spanish. She spoke no Spanish when she started doing this.

DODSON: It seems almost impossible that she could teach them English without knowing Spanish.

STRICKLAND: But the way she does it...she does a fabulous job. It's word association. They cook things and the one day I was there they were making pineapple upside down cake. She'd hold up pineapple. She's hold the pineapple up, pan, a pot holder and they would repeat it. And then she'd have them tell them what it was in Spanish and then she also was learning. She's become very good at this now. But it's association and doing. Now on Chinese New Year day the Chinese women would give us a talk on their cooking. What they were doing in recipes. Spanish, Cuban, whatever they may be...they all participate. And it's in a very informal setting. It's in a very small area. They have no room. They started virtually with nothing. It's a tremendous program. And the parents that are involved in it, they stay involved because I saw some of the same parents when I went up to see there...it was four years ago...are still involved in this because they still have children in the school. And it's very interesting.

BOYER: Does this run at night then or during the day?

STRICKLAND: No, during the day time. It's school session time. And it's on the school grounds. These two buildings.

MOTHER: Well now what the children are these learning in...

STRICKLAND: English and the parents. Cubans, Chinese, Mexicans whatever.

MOTHER: Oh I see.

STRICKLAND: Vietnamese.

MOTHER: Well now this Korean. Pardon me for interrupting.

DODSON: Go right ahead.

MOTHER: I have a grandson who's very close to a Korean family and he gave a party for them one day last week and we all came and they are the nicest people. But there was only two of them that could speak English. There was two girls or women rather.

STRICKLAND: Let's not waste their tape. Local history.

DODSON: We brought plenty. Because we never know just what will come up. So we always have plenty of tape. Can you tell us something about your own early education in the valley? What teachers you had and what sort of things that you studied? What you did? What kind of devilment you got into? Perhaps you didn't ever get into any.

STRICKLAND: Oh yes. We had a stern father. He was a law and order man. But I remember my first week in school. They taught us to do arithmetic with beans. I don't know, all I remember that you'd count your beans and you'd learn to add and subtract. I thought that was very very exciting. But I think one of the things that I remember most was probably a teacher that I had. It was a Mrs. ?Lapsley. Now her husband at one time was a Mayor of Burbank. A natural storyteller. I can still hear her telling stories and she kept us so enthralled in our classes that we couldn't wait to see what Mrs. Lapsley was going to tell us a story the next day. She was a teacher for years and years here. But we had a lot of storytelling in our classes then. And a lot of reading. We didn't have a lot of the things that the kids have now. More basics, a lot of Social Sciences because when I was in grammar school was the Heidi ?...I can't think of his country...

DODSON: Ethiopia.

STRICKLAND: Ethiopia, is when the Italians invaded Ethiopia. And this was drilled into our heads by one of our teachers that I had, Mrs. Mann. And I remember it seemed so foreign to us. We just couldn't comprehend this in grammar school. It seemed unreal but we had a lot of fun in school, a lot of fun. And in high school...well now for example...I don't type. Because in high school we had one typing class and unless you were a business student, you couldn't take typing. And I was an art major and I could have my art. We were required to have gym. Basically, the same things, but there was no frills. There was dance classes. There was no swimming classes or anything of this type.

DODSON: Do you think that education now is a bit more frilly, if we can call it that then it was then?

STRICKLAND: Yes, I do.

DODSON: Do you think it's good or bad?

STRICKLAND: I think it's bad. I'll tell you why. I worked 18 years in the Public Library. And I worked 8 years of it was in the Children's Library and when I saw

the assignments that those kids had and how disinterested and how no effort on their part, I thought it was terrible. I really did. First of all they would try you on the phone, for you to do their reference work. And of course, we didn't, you'd have to come in. You would have to...they didn't know how to look up...they don't even know how to look in the card catalog. They don't even know how to check a reference. It was just incredible. And these were kids that were up to the 9th grade. And we trained our kids. Then we had a little more time and we would teach them to use a catalog. At that time, we got the schools, they would bring the 5th grade classes in or library tours and you would tell all about the library, how to use the card catalog. And about 5 years ago they stopped it because it really wasn't a fun trip. And the kids didn't like coming to the library. They would rather go to the dairy or... At that time, in the summer to Safeway stores and they use to get candy and goodies when they go on those field trips.

DODSON: I can imagine they would prefer that.

STRICKLAND: Yes. So I really feel that they've got away from the basics. And my own daughter...I took her out of public school and put her in a parochial school and

we are not Catholic. Because she couldn't even read well. And here was a kid that I knew was smart but they never really made them do it. And at the school where I put her, the teacher said, "If they don't get their math in an hour, then we do it two hours." Because you cannot do that in public school. They have to stick to a very strict time table. And I think it's wrong. I think they should work with that kid till he's got it. And I saw so much of it, like I say, in the library. I think the students that were good students, they always managed. But I don't think they're making good students out of poor students. And I felt when I went to school they did. I had a lot of teachers that took a lot of interest in me. And really helped me. In high school I had a teacher, she was our English teacher...I felt I was poor in English and she said, "Anybody that wanted help could come after school." And I did because it was hard. And we read King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. And she got me so interested in reading and things of this type that I don't see that happening any more. Of course, I'm not in school. But I don't think these avenues are open to the children. You don't you have these teachers that are willing to stay after school.

DODSON: I suppose the curriculum is much fuller in the sense of a greater variety of courses but you may be quite right that they're not as thorough then.

STRICKLAND: No, it's true, they're not. If you have a six weeks' class, in six weeks it's finished. You know, we had a whole semester of the same thing. You know, if you start in June and you were still on that same thing to the following June. I mean there was variations but there wasn't these ten week and eight week classes like you have now.

DODSON: Have you noticed the change in such things as vandalism between the time that you were in junior high and high school and now? Do you think that there is a greater destruction of school property then there use to be?

STRICKLAND: Yes, in fact, for our community newsletter we're doing a story on graffiti. And we've had a lot of programs in Burbank on graffiti because we did not have graffiti as it is today until the last few years. And they've made a very thorough study of it on our Police Department. And it's communication between the Spanish people, the gangs, the people in other areas. And we've done some research on it in our office and the boy that's done it is writing an

article and he needed a picture. And I said, "Well, you go down in the mall and I'll tell you right where to go. It's the same spots all the time." A lot of graffiti is costing the business people a lot of money for painting. The vandalism, it's cost the city $8,000 alone last year for vandalism in the parks. They built anti-vandalism bathrooms in the parks but it didn't work. They ripped these stainless steel fixtures right off the walls.

DODSON: Is that right?

STRICKLAND: We had one in the City Hall the other day that was suppose to be guaranteed you know not to be...to be vandal-proof. We do have much much more...the schools have had a lot of it. Everybody's had a lot of it. We are lucky in the respects that we haven't had any fires or this type of thing.

DODSON: Arson hasn't been a problem.

STRICKLAND: Arson has not been a problem. We have a lot of problems...the school's deny little gang associations. But there a little of this element but not like some of the elements. And a lot of it is the Spanish people and I was told by someone in the Police Department, it's the kids that weren't

born here. The Mexican kids that are born here do not become involved in these gangs. It's the non-residents, the aliens, yes.

DODSON: That's rather interesting then.

STRICKLAND: They need a identity thing. That's one of their little problems. But I think...Burbank of course being small...they can really concentrate on these things and they kind of get to them before they get out of hand. Remember the 17.5 square miles and we have a 150 sworn personnel on our Police Department.

DODSON: Is there any narcotics problem in the schools now in Burbank?

STRICKLAND: It's less now than it was. There is still some problems. They had a...about three years ago it was a very bad problem. One of my friends is the Vice Principal at Burbank High, told me that she had about two girls a day that she would have to take out of classes because they were so under the influence of drugs. And her approach was, she called the police and let them take them. And this stopped a lot of it because it was not only embarrassing because it involved a parent. The

parent had to go get them and it's cut down quite a bit. It's not as bad as it was.

DODSON: Some of the people who have worked with me, not Paula but some of the others, have been astonished to hear that 30 or 40 years ago there was no such thing as drug problem. That is, they just assumed this was perpetual. That it had always been that way, that everybody in school was using marijuana from time in memorial. Had you ever heard of it when you were in high school or junior high or elementary school.

STRICKLAND: The first time I heard of drugs...I knew of none in school. There was some drinking with the high school kids, but not to a high degree. The first time I heard about marijuana was during the war and some of the kids that I went to school with were in the service. And this one in particular was in the navy and he came back and I don't where he got his marijuana but he started some of these other kids smoking a little marijuana. Well it was very very hard to get as I understand. And all of a sudden, he got a Section A out of the navy. And all of the kids I remember them saying, "He smoked that marijuana and it made his mind go bad." And till this day he just wanders around in the streets here.

He's never been able to hold a job. A good looking boy and if it had anything to do with it, I don't know. But that's the first time I ever heard of it. And then really it never seemed to be a big thing here until just this last three years. I never knew anybody else that ever smoked other than those kids.

DODSON: Can you tell us something about your religious life here in the valley?

STRICKLAND: Oh, well we were not very good church goers.

DODSON: Maybe I shouldn't have asked that question.

STRICKLAND: Well I really don't know what to...I really wasn't much of a church goer. I know my mother's parents were very good church goers and I use to go with my grandmother and other than that it's not so much.

MOTHER: Well, I joined the Methodist Church years and years ago.

DODSON: Where was the Methodist Church located here in Burbank at that time?

STRICKLAND: Well your mother use to clean the Four Square Church and that was her job.

MOTHER: Well I didn't go to that church.

STRICKLAND: You didn't tell them mother, that how you use to work in Glendale and took the street car home to Burbank.

DODSON: Yes, we're interested in knowing about those early street cars that are now a matter of history.

MOTHER: Oh wow, yes. How did we get to Glendale from Burbank?

DODSON: Didn't the line run down Glenoaks?

STRICKLAND: It ran down Glenoaks, right.

MOTHER: Yes I did. I remember when before it was there. And when they finally put it in...why that was one of the great events at that time, wasn't it? Of course, you weren't there. To have that street car come from Los Angeles to Burbank, the red car as they called it.

DODSON: They built it to Glendale first, didn't they? And then the Burbank businessmen wanted it to come on to Burbank.

MOTHER: Send on to Burbank too. Magnolia Avenue.

STRICKLAND: She worked in a little cafe in Glendale and she use to commute and her brother use to walk up to bring her home at night. Then she met my father.

MOTHER: Well...yes.

DODSON: Do you remember what the fare was at that time between Burbank and Glendale.

MOTHER: I have no idea. I just know that it wasn't much I don't think.

STRICKLAND: There was another thing I thought would be interesting if mother could tell you about I think is of historical significance. Was the coming of the WPA and we had a local coop here.

DODSON: Yes, we would like to hear about that.

STRICKLAND: Mother, tell them about the forming of the coop.

MOTHER: Well, actually I didn't have any hand in it. But you know during the Depression and you know how the times were. And there was a group of men, though I

don't know how they got together, I wasn't...I was busy raising children at that time.

DODSON: Well, I imagine you were fairly busy then with what you were doing.

MOTHER: Yes, well they formed this...they had a building...and I don't know how they got that either. And these men would go out and work in the fields and to pick fruit and went into the center where they had all the...

STRICKLAND: It was on Front Street in Burbank, between Olive and Verdugo. There was an old factory there.

MOTHER: Then they would go out and pick fruit and vegetables and bring it into this place and then the people who worked there who would help. They would go in there and then when they went home would get what they wanted and chose from fruit and various things and it was quite a help. It really was.

STRICKLAND: Tell them about how grandpa started it.

MOTHER: Oh did he now. I've forgotten that too.

STRICKLAND: Well, he was one the...he helped organize it and got it going, my father. And then there was no sugar for the canning of this fruit.

MOTHER: Oh yes, that's right.

DODSON: This was during the war when the shortage...

STRICKLAND: This is during the Depression. The start of the Depression, right.

MOTHER: Well previous to this time, my husband hadn't worked in such a capacity in the government. I don't remember exactly what but they had to...supplies down in Los Angeles in this place and he knew these men from the time he worked for the government and they had the big sacks of sugar and all that. So my husband was pretty good at getting things. So he'd go down there and they'd give him this great big sack of sugar and he'd bring it out to the...what they call that...the coop and just divided up to people who worked there.

STRICKLAND: So they could can their fruit and things they grew.

MOTHER: Yes, to can fruit and the vegetables.

DODSON: Was your family hurt very much by the Depression?

MOTHER: Well, not really I don't believe. I don't ever remember going hungry.

DODSON: Do you have any particular recollection of whether the people of Burbank were rather badly affected, that is your neighbors, people you knew?

MOTHER: I don't seem to recall anything that was desperately...that they couldn't survive. Because we always had a garden and most people did.

DODSON: That's been the impression I've gotten from these interviews. That the valley in general wasn't as hard hit as say manufacturing sections would have been.

STRICKLAND: We had the WPA. Now they came in and they built the road up into some of our hill area and cleaned a lot of that out and they built check stands and they did a lot of repair into the city in that way. And dig ditches and sewers. And a lot of our prominent people were in this WPA project in Burbank. And I remember a lot of it. In fact, our post office was built in 1938, which has WPA paintings in it that were done at that time. And it was a very trying

time but like she said, we always managed. But it was not too easy though sometimes. With five kids.

DODSON: Well that I can imagine. Since we were talking about the problem of the sugar. Do you remember rationing during World War II? Were you affected much by that? In scarcities of one kind or another.

MOTHER: Yeah, some. I don't remember...

STRICKLAND: She was in Oregon there during the war. They went to Oregon and they had plenty of sugar of up there. We didn't here. We had to wait in lines for the meat. We had to wait in lines for nylons. We waited in the lines for pineapple. We waited in lines for whatever. Thrifty Drug Store was the first drug store that I can remember they got nylons after the war. We use to stand in that line for hours just to get a pair of stockings. But we had the meat...we always came out short on our meat status. I don't know why. We always had plenty of sugar, butter, but the canned foods was very very difficult to get and our neighbor who worked at Lockheed, had a garden and he would grow our vegetables so we always managed on the stance. If fact, I found my grandmother's stance the other day

in something. She had some left over. See my grandmother lived to be 105, her mother.

DODSON: Is that right?

STRICKLAND: She just died four years ago. So she was around a long time.

DODSON: Do you remember shortages of gasoline? Did that affect you?

STRICKLAND: Yes it did. But we didn't have a car. We sold the car because you couldn't get enough gas. You couldn't get the tires. If your tires wore out, we couldn't get tires. At that time that's when my sister and I moved together. You remember when I was telling about the aircraft factory when our husbands were in the service. But you couldn't gas, you couldn't get the tires, we couldn't fix the cars. Finally, I just sold my car.

DODSON: Of course, at that time we did have the Pacific Electric. So it was easier to get around.

STRICKLAND: We had a bus that ran just a half a block from our house that took us up and we would take the red car in if we had to. That was the only way you could

get around. Very few cars. The war workers were better off than we were. If you worked at a defense plant or something of this type, you could get those things. But we weren't working.

MOTHER: Well of course I didn't live in Burbank all the time. I was married in 1915 and we moved to Hollywood. And there's a lot of Burbank that I can't remember because I wasn't here.

DODSON: Yes, I see.

STRICKLAND: But you've lived here 64 years out of your 84 years.

DODSON: 64 years makes you an expert.

MOTHER: Well I don't think so steadily. You know we moved around an awful lot.

STRICKLAND: Well off and on. But remember I figured it up here. She's only been out of the area, 20 years. She says, "Oh, that's a long time."

MOTHER: Well we've been in and out so many times. We've been to Oregon. We've been to Texas and we've been to where else...

STRICKLAND: But basically when she came to Burbank, she left about, when they came to the depot here and they finally got off the train, they were able to walk from the depot to our Santa Rosa Hotel at that time, which was the only hotel. And they stayed there about a week. And that hotel, like I say, was the only...we've never had one like it since. And if we get this new one, hopefully will finally get back in the big time.

DODSON: To say one thing more about the war. Did you attempt to buy any major appliances of any kind during the war and find that those were difficult to obtain?

STRICKLAND: Yes, I had tried to buy a stove after the war and the only thing I could find was one of those old funny, you know high off the ground ranges and I bought it for $10 and it was only after much maneuvering through a friend of a friend that you could get this. You couldn't refrigerators. You couldn't get any of these things and it wasn't until 1945 that I could get a refrigerator, a new one to buy. And that's when they first started coming out and get stoves. You couldn't buy nothing in leather. We had a hard time buying materials too. I remember we had to go down to Los Angeles a lot of

times to buy like wool materials. Now I don't know what that had to do with it. But I wanted to make my daughter a coat and I remember I had to go to Los Angeles to get good wool for a coat. Shoes, your shoes were rationed but we had so little money and so little stamps that you wore your shoes absolutely till they were worn out. You had no extra shoes.

DODSON: I think for people living now, it's going to be hard to picture the degree of scarcities that existed in this country and how quickly develop after the war began. So I was rather anxious to get this on tape.

STRICKLAND: That's true. Another thing that we noticed when...if you wanted something and you went out to buy it, there was no deliveries. You got no cars. It was not uncommon to see people carrying shopping bags all the time. I mean an awful lot of shopping bags. We use to shop in a baby buggy. You know, we carried the kids and the groceries home in the baby buggies. There was just no other way to do it and I can't remember having ever thought this was terrible. It never really bothered us.

MOTHER: No kidding. It really didn't.

DODSON: You just sort of took it in stride as something you had to do.

MOTHER: That's something you had to do, do it.

STRICKLAND: Well, people were very loyal to that cause...the war. I mean everybody believed it was something we had to do and I don't think we ever felt deprived really.

DODSON: Do you think there has been a difference in attitude between the two wars? That is the World War II and the Korean War and the Vietnamese War, three wars really? That people have shown less enthusiasm about the latter two than the first one of those three?

STRICKLAND: Oh yes. Because now the Korean War was not as bad as World War II because it didn't affect so many people. My younger brother was in the Korean War. But the Viet Nam War was terrible and I think the attitudes were terrible. And I said myself, "If I had a son, he wouldn't go." I mean that's how I felt about it. I felt that we didn't go out to win. We were in a war that was...well it just looked like it wasn't run right. And I personally would not...I'm one of those mothers marching...I wouldn't

have allowed my kid to go. But I didn't feel loyal to it at all. But World War II and the Korean War I did. I felt that that was something...

DODSON: Do you have anything else you would like to say those three wars contrasting them, Mrs. Strickland?

STRICKLAND: Well, they were totally different. I would never even put them together in my mind. They were just two separate things in my life. I think each time there was a different reaction. In the Korean War we were not rationed, we went without nothing. It made no impact on our lives. The Viet Nam War I think did because there was so many men and boys lost and they had a big draft. I mean we had a lot of boys from here that went. And they seemed to be younger. Either I was older...it effected me emotionally more than it did the Korean War. I don't why, other than I think I just felt bad about the whole thing.

DODSON: Were there any protest movements here in Burbank of the type that we got somewhere else in some other places?

STRICKLAND: With the Viet Nam...no. We didn't have any protests. There was a lot of editorials in the paper opposing it. I mean you know from the letters to the editors and that type of thing. A lot of the

mothers opposed it. And I think at first people didn't feel quite as bitter about it but as it went on and drug on it seemed so hopeless. I think then people become very bitter. Because I wasn't the only one that felt that my kid wouldn't go.

DODSON: I think the future will be interested in knowing what the attitude of those of us who lived through the Vietnamese War really was. Whether we supported it or whether we were opposed to it or indifferent to it, so I'm glad to get your opinions on that.

STRICKLAND: Well at first...my brother was in World War I and he was in the South Pacific and it was a very very terrible experience to him. And we were never aware of went he went through till he went to buy a house and he had to produce his draft papers or discharge. And he had all kinds of metals and things of this nature and he refused to talk about it because it was a terrible experience. And he had said that that was something we had to do. Now the Korean War he said, "We've got to protect what we accomplished in World War I."

DODSON: World War II, do you mean?

STRICKLAND: I mean II, excuse me, yes. So then when we got into...that was the Korean War. He said, "We have to protect Korea for what we fought for in World War II." And then when it came to the Viet Nam War he said, "Well, it is important to our national security that I think we have to go along with it." And I think at first we all felt this way. We've got to save these people. You know, look what's happening to them. But when it had become apparent that nothing was happening but they were losing so many lives then, at least our friends and people we knew, just felt that we should get out of there and quit losing any more lives. We didn't feel loyal to it. There was so much corruption and people that would come back and they would say it was terrible. We had friends that went over there as civilians to build things in Viet Nam and he come back and he said, "It was a disgrace." The graft and corruption and we losing lives every day with these kind of people. You were fighting for this regime.

DODSON: Paula, do you have any questions about these things?

BOYER: No, I just was wondering to do you remember anything that happened with the reserves in Burbank that were sent to Viet Nam?

STRICKLAND: No, all I know is I saw a picture and there was a lot of them that were to go but if I'm not mistaken and did not end up going. If I recollect...

BOYER: Oh, I think they did.

STRICKLAND: They did end up going from the army out here.

BOYER: I think they started a petition. They got the petition and it didn't work. And they got sent to Viet Nam.

STRICKLAND: If I remember, they went but they didn't, nothing happened at that time.

BOYER: Well, I don't think they were put in a safe area. I mean they weren't out on the front lines but they did go to Viet Nam. I just thought you might remember something.

STRICKLAND: No, I remember vaguely about it. I did want to say one thing though. During the time that my father was Chief of Police in the early '20s, my parents rented a house and as it turned out it was the original style ranch house that was Style Park he was the one that gave that area to the city. And it was a 14 room old house up there and we use to call

it the "spook house." That's what it was. We were too scared to death...

DODSON: How did it get that name or that reputation?

STRICKLAND: Well it had a tower on it, that would come up out of the roof and it had 14 rooms. And after he had left they split the house. The Taylors lived on one side and my mother and the family lived on the other side and it had a full basement. And of course I don't remember it but when I got older we would drive by this house and there was a lady that lived there and she had about 70 cats and the city went in there and made her clean this up and the house was deteriorating and around it was these lovely homes that were springing up. And it was just falling to the ground. And I was working in the library one day and I came across this box and it was the replica that had been made of the Style Ranch House. And when I pulled it out, low and behold, it was this house that my family had lived in. It was with the tower and everything.

BOYER: Is it still there?

STRICKLAND: No. As kids when we were going to high school and we'd go by there and it looked like a spook house.

And it had two big palm trees and this old lady and all her cats. But they tore it down and subdivided it. But the house did have historical significance.

DODSON: Do you remember it clearly then that you lived in it?

MOTHER: Oh I do, I do. Well, my husband worked at night and I was in that big house with these little children.

DODSON: So to you it was a little spooky, is that right?

MOTHER: It was awful.

BOYER: There was nothing around it?

MOTHER: No, no neighbors. There was one little old house next door with the one woman that lives in it.

DODSON: Now about when was that?

STRICKLAND: 1923?

MOTHER: I'm very poor on dates.

STRICKLAND: It was about 1923. It was before I was born. I was born in '24 so...

DODSON: Where was the house located then?

STRICKLAND: Cornell and 6th Street in Burbank. And up to this point, I didn't realize that how many people did not realize that was the original Style house. I started piecing all these little things together and it had shown up in a few pictures kind of in the background.

DODSON: Well, I've found since I've been talking to people about the history of this area, that many of them no nothing about historic houses. There surprised to find that we have any adobes left.

STRICKLAND: There's not many, but there's a few. The one in Glendale and then the one on Lankershim...what is it Pico?

DODSON: The Pico...Andres Pico adobe. No, we actually have four in the valley that I've been able locate. Los Encinos and the Lopez adobe and the Leonas adobe.

STRICKLAND: Well, we had adobe...part of the Burbank homestead had an adobe on it and we have a picture. But it was on the Warner Bros. back lots and the house, Dr. Burbank's house was on the back lot and in the fire in, I think it 1957, it burned. And then they

destroyed it and then the adobe went with it. They cleaned it all out. Now there is a little place on Reese Street, South Reese, a lady called us. And she has probably the oldest building standing in Burbank and it is partly adobe she says and it has this 5 foot, I think it's 5 foot high doorways in it and it was the shepherds or the sheep herders house or like a bunkhouse and it had been converted into a house and now another house is in front of it. We have a taping of her that she's learned a little bit about the house. And that's probably to my knowledge one of the oldest things that's around. But we have a house built in 1887 that we're hoping to move to make our museum to use in part of our museum that the city has.

DODSON: Yes, I've heard that you were deeded this house.

STRICKLAND: Yes, hoping it all works out.

DODSON: Of course, when I read about your society I was rather hoping you get the Southern Pacific Station to preserve that.

STRICKLAND: Well we would like to, but it is not the original. That one was built in 1930. The original one that was the wood one is not the original and we thought

it was but we investigated and check with the depot and we've got all the information that was built in 1930. We would like the post office that was built in 1938 because it has 2 foot thick walls in it and it has some these WPA murals and it has hand painted tiles and we're waiting to see if the government will declare it surplus, which is... (OVERLAPS)

BOYER: Where is this whole thing?

STRICKLAND: On Olive, you know in San Fernando.

BOYER: The post office.

MOTHER: Oh, you mean the old original post office?

BOYER: One of them.

STRICKLAND: It's a beautiful post office. I just don't know where we're going to end up but we're on our way.

DODSON: If that were declared surplus, you could buy it at a very small amount then, I presume.

STRICKLAND: We would hope this but it falls within our Golden State Redevelopment property. It could be a conflict with the city over it. It's a very very

choice piece of property. It's a very beautiful building and a lot of people would like it. So I really don't know.

DODSON: But the city wouldn't demolish it then.

STRICKLAND: I don't know. I think we have convinced the city what they have. We've made them aware of what it is. And I talked to a lot of the people that would be involved in it in the city and they are aware of it. And I think they would probably keep it if it ever came to that. As I understand the city has first right of refusal, if it's declared surplus. So this is why we made it known to them because we did check into it. But hopefully we're still around to make sure.

DODSON: Another thing that we'd like to ask you about is the effect of earthquakes on Burbank? I believe your mother has an opinion on that. Do you recall some of the earthquakes?

MOTHER: I do.

DODSON: But apparently not very pleasantly.

MOTHER: No.

DODSON: Now one of the things we discovered in talking to another Burbank resident, Mrs. Verna Wilson, was that in the 1971 quake the hilly areas of Burbank felt it rather strongly but the flat land areas did not. Is that your recollection?

MOTHER: I don't have any recollection of that earthquake at all.

DODSON: Maybe you were lucky because a good many of people that we...

MOTHER: I remember we were living on Clark Street...

STRICKLAND: And you run and jumped in bed with grandpa and you were scared.

MOTHER: Oh that's it. Is that the one? See my husband was feeling not very well and in his latter days and he had the room across the hall and I had mine here and when I got up that morning my feet hit the floor and the floor was going like this. And I got afraid and I ran across the hall and jumped in bed with my husband. I don't know what I thought he could do.

DODSON: Where were you living at that time?

MOTHER: On Clark Street.

STRICKLAND: Off of Victory.

DODSON: Was your house damaged by the quake?

MOTHER: No, nothing happened to the house. Two lamps fell off of the table, that was all. Not a thing was damaged.

STRICKLAND: We had very little damage in Burbank, minor things. The library where I was working at the time, we had quite a bit because the motion knocked all the book stacks down that we had up. They went over like dominoes in our storage area. And we had metal book stacks downstairs. They were the new modern things but a lot of them the brackets shifted...it must of went up and they flipped and all the books slipped off of it. But the actual damage was small. We were able to fix most of that up. We went through and they bolted all the racks to the wall after that and then they braced everything. Because if someone had been in there they could have very easily been killed. All our Pacific Home, Reunited Brother and Home...I don't know if Mrs. Wilson told you about that. That was the most severely damaged building in Burbank. It was a senior citizen home.

DODSON: No, she didn't mention that specifically.

STRICKLAND: It was built in about 1927 and it was a stucco and wood structure and it shook so badly the steps fell off of the building from the second story. You know, like the old fire escapes. It had to be demolished and it was on the property where our new Pacific Manor stands, which is a senior citizen home. Well that was the worse damage I think of any building in Burbank.

DODSON: Was this particular house in existence then or have you built it since the quake?

STRICKLAND: This one was here. We didn't have any damage, only had one thing broken. We have noticed a crack in the fireplace. Now the house is wood and I think this is one reason we have found out that it stood it pretty well. Because of the neighbor's our plaster, a lot of it had cracked. There was a very severe jolt up here and we jumped out of bed and we looked down. And it was just like the 4th of July down here. The transformers were burning and spitting and frying and right down there you see is Glendale's generating plant. So we saw a lot of that and all down in there was these like explosions and you could hear them. But the damage, it really

wasn't that severe in like you say in Burbank. We were very fortunate. I think when I was looking up some of the stuff...the Flood of '38...I think there was far more damage done to Burbank then anything that I ever recollect.

DODSON: Can you describe how the flood did effect Burbank then? We would be interested in that.

STRICKLAND: Well, we lived on Verdugo and between the tracks and Lake Street on a house way in the back. It was originally like a farm house back there. And beside it was the drain. It's now the storm drain for the City of Burbank and it's all cemented in. And it was kind of trees and bushes down in there and you could see houses and chickens and stuff washing in there and at Verdugo there was a...not a bridge but a storm drain under it...things started stacking up there. Pieces of houses and garages and you name it. And they had to come and pull this stuff out to stop this water because the water was all backing up and spreading out and the Los Angeles River came all the way up to Riverside Drive. Down where Victory and Riverside Drive cross down towards into Glendale. Well it came clear up to the stables, the Rocking Horse Stables up in there, it had cut and eroded and as I understand the original river did

come up that high years and years before that. And the bridge at Warner Bros. went out. Now at that time my dad was working at Columbia Studio in Hollywood and he came home. And he said he was one of the last persons that was allowed to cross that bridge or got across it before it washed out. And we took a ride out into North Hollywood to the Tijunga Wash. The destruction was terrible out there. And I can remember it so well.

MOTHER: Yeah, I remember that too.

STRICKLAND: Things just collapsed from the water. And the rushing water. And these hills, the waters just roared down out of these hills.

DODSON: Is that right? Were there many houses on these hillsides at that time?

STRICKLAND: Yes, uh-huh. A lot of them. But one of the problems, like Sunset Canyon up in there, where they had a little damn...well it washed out the little damns, it went over check damns, the water, everything. But it would come...the valley suffered more because the water would come so fast off of here. And it washed out sidewalks and ran clear up into the buildings and through buildings and settled

out. And then you see it was racing to the river. You see the river goes along the hill there and it just went right on down into there and it spread that river. Of course then, to my eyes, it seemed liked it was a half of mile wide and just raging.

DODSON: Had there been a series of heavy rains or something shortly before that, that created this situation?

STRICKLAND: Yes, it rained I think for six days, seven nights. It was just a torrent. I've always been meaning to go back in the microwave files and just to see what it was. But I remember it so vividly in my mind. I just couldn't believe it.

DODSON: And that made really a greater impression than the earthquakes that we hear about?

STRICKLAND: Yes. The first earthquake...was it '34 or '35...it was so bad. It knocked me down on the ground.

DODSON: That was the Long Beach Quake?

STRICKLAND: The Long Beach one. We were standing outside on Lake Street. We had a two-story house and then it would sway like this. But we were playing in the yard and it actually made us fall to the ground.

DODSON: Is that right? It was that strong?

STRICKLAND: Uh-huh. I remember that because my dad was sitting in a car talking to a man. And he hollered out, "You kids quit pushing this car." And we weren't even near it. But that was very frightening because my uncle from Texas was visiting and it got up and left the next day. And he said, "I'm not staying in California." And he left. But that was pretty frightening because that was my first recollection of an earthquake. This last one frightened me but I think I coped with it a little better.

DODSON: Well, I know that it did some damage in Van Nuys because the Van Nuys High School apparently had to be demolished afterward. It's assembly room fell in, it's auditorium, the roof I understand. And the elementary school also had to be demolished as a result of it. Until I heard that I hadn't realized that it was felt that strongly in this area. Do you know of any buildings in Burbank that were destroyed by it?

STRICKLAND: The Long Beach Earthquake at that time the city said that our junior high school at that time, John Murrow, they'd built a new one since, was severely damaged. A big hunk of the front came down from up

above and it was condemned and it stood idle for awhile. Then they put night classes in it and then they...oh after they built the new one and then they went in and put night classes. Then they took some of the kids from Burbank High and they used it because it was becoming very crowded. Well, that school stood for years and years and was used and it was suppose to be not used because of the earthquake. So I suspect they just a new junior high school. They finally did tear it down. But that one, there was quite a few bricks and things came off. In fact, one of the Ben Naramal? who's store has been there since 1915 told me that's when they took the brick off the front of their building because about half of them had fallen off. And that was that...? I think there was more damage then because the construction was so poor.

DODSON: Yes. And then there was the Tehachapi Quake after that between that and the Sylmar Quake. Do you recall that one?

STRICKLAND: Well I recall the Tehachapi Earthquake because we were on our way to Yellowstone and we were in a trailer out in the desert by Tehachapi and we were awaken and we thought somebody had hit our trailer. And it just like somebody had taken the tongue and

just shook us to death. And this horrible roar. It was just deafening and we woke up and we looked around and we were the only ones out there in the desert, no cars or nothing. And we couldn't really...we weren't sure what it was and we thought maybe an earthquake. But there was nothing to tell and it wasn't till the next day when we got into St. George, Utah that we were aware that we were right in the middle of that earthquake. Right in the Tehachapis.

MOTHER: I don't remember that one at all.

STRICKLAND: I don't know if you...you weren't here then I think. You missed it. You were living in San Marcus. I always told mother she should...she was always going to write a book. Her travels with Pappy. Because my father use to like to move around and travel around a lot. But they always come back to Burbank.

MOTHER: Yes we did.

DODSON: Now we've been talking about the past earthquakes. Do you think that people worry about the future one that we have had predicted.

STRICKLAND: Yes, because I work in the Public Information Office of City of Hall. And we've had a lot of calls from people, "What can we do and should we do?" In fact, we did an article in one of our newsletters telling them what steps to take to help you know in case there was another earthquake. They are worrying about it. I am worrying about it.

DODSON: I think the future will probably be interested in knowing whether we've just took an attitude of utter indifference or fatalistic attitude or whether some people were concerned.

STRICKLAND: They are concerned. In fact, we had in December a citywide, like an test, where the hospitals participated; Police Department; Fire Department on earthquake. If a hypothetical earthquake, what steps would we take in. And I understand there was lots of confusion. They said it went well but I talked to people that were involved in it and there was a lot of confusion. So it really pointed out to the people in the city that we needed more training; more guidance in this and they are going to be doing more. We are doing another story on earthquakes and what to do. People are frightened and justly so. And with the water situation the way it is, you know with the draught. They're telling people they

should be sure they have water for two weeks for drinking. Two weeks supply of food. Where to get, stand in the doorway, under a table.

MOTHER: Who thinks of that when you're in the middle of an earthquake? Who thinks of that?

STRICKLAND: That's why we're trying to train and educate people with this.

MOTHER: Well, we can't do anything about it so I don't worry.

STRICKLAND: But you can help prevent injury and lots of life by it. You know, of course, another thing we worry about here too is fires. I think fires bother me about as much as anything.

DODSON: That seems to have been the main cause of destruction in San Francisco at the time of their earthquake in 1906.

STRICKLAND: Well, we had quite a few fires in the hills here. We had a very very bad one here...what...8 or 9 years ago. And we almost lost our house. If we hadn't have been here we would've lost this house. And it was my first experience of a raging fire that

turned into a firestorm. And this is a serious problem. And particularly now with the water situation. Everything is very dry. And if you did have an earthquake and your power lines were down, it could really start a terrible fire. And the city has talked about taking reclaimed water and put it up in here. But it's a very expensive proposition. So I don't know what will happen to that.

DODSON: Paula, do you have anything you'd like to ask about?

BOYER: No, I was just thinking...you mean that want to like water the sites...the hills?

STRICKLAND: Yes, put sprinklers up above. We have bought the city what you call a "green belt". They've tried to buy all the property they can as far up as you can so that we can control it and control the building and the ecology of it. And one of the things we have a reclamation plant in Burbank where you purify the water and it's being used now to pool our generating plants and our steam plants into the fresh water. That's one of the measures the city is taking to cut down on the waste of water. Now, they're planting some bushes along Chandler Blvd. and this lady's been fighting for seven years to get these...to beautify the railroad tracks along

Chandler. Finally, she's got an agreement with the Southern Pacific and low and behold the other day somebody's complaining that we're going to waste water, watering these bushes. Well, the city was prepared for this and they're using the reclaimed water for that. And like your parkway trees and stuff.

DODSON: Has there been any loss of the city's shrubs and trees and that sort of thing as a result of the draught, that is on city owned lands would you say?

STRICKLAND: No, not here. In fact, we have not had any rationing. We are doing a plan. The city has just appointed a committee to study this and to make guidelines to the people on how to cut down on their own. We're trying to do it on our own. And in our next newsletter we are going to state steps that they can take to do this. Because if we don't, we are going to be rationed. And so far, so good. And the Burbank people have been real good about this because of the generating of electricity. We use to use crude oil and it caused smog and when we stopped using crude and went to the more expensive oils and not we can't get them so we're back to the crude oil and you do get this pollution. And this is a

problem and I don't know where it's going to lead it.

DODSON: This has also brought something else to my mind. Is there any problem as between Burbank and Los Angeles and Glendale on water and the division of water supplies. I know that Glendale and Los Angeles had a controversy over the water in the Los Angeles River, which was finally settled on the basis of the court decision going back to the grant, I believe of King Charles III of Spain to the Pueblo of Los Angeles. Was Burbank...

STRICKLAND: Yes, we were involved in the same suit and we lost. See we were pumping water...we had a lot of pumping wells. In fact, water up here on the hill was pumped. We had our artisan wells in Burbank. In fact, when we were kids down on Niagara and Verdugo, it was all swampy down in there and you could walk and the kids would go out there and catch polliwogs and it went down into the Los Angeles River. And I talked to a Mrs. Osborne, who has since passed away, and her family was instrumental, they had a dairy and they use to channel that water off into the dairy and then they built a flue from there down to the river and to get rid of some of this water. But

see L.A. says we cannot do that anymore. We had to stop it.

DODSON: You wouldn't legally be allowed to drill wells then in Burbank at the present time to tap water supplies?

STRICKLAND: That's right. There's water there but we can't do it because of the court decision.

DODSON: The water laws in the west are rather interesting of course and I know that in many state you have surface rights to your land but you would not have water rights even though there was water underneath the land.

STRICKLAND: Well, we managed to fight them for a good many years. But that's one reason we are now getting half Colorado River water which started last week. And our water has changed the taste.

MOTHER: That's what's been done.

STRICKLAND: We went into the Feather River Project and the Owens River and through all this we were buying water from them. But because of the draught we were getting 10% from there. Well the city has now said, "You

keep that 10%, we won't use it now." And we've gone and getting the other 10% now from the Colorado River. Which makes us half Colorado River mixed in and the water has a totally different taste now.

DODSON: Does Burbank draw water then from the Owens Valley too as well as Los Angeles?

STRICKLAND: I'm a little unclear...we're getting the Feather River water. I know we bought into that before it was ever completed but I think we get a little of the Owens River water. I think we were buying some from the Metropolitan Water District and that's part of it I believe.

DODSON: I didn't know whether that particular water went to Burbank or not. Of course that was one of the factors that forced the valley to annex to Los Angeles, to share in that water. But apparently was able to stay out, that they had enough water that they weren't forced to join the city.

STRICKLAND: Well we have the water there now. But we have to go out and buy it. I mean we can't pump it anymore.

DODSON: Well, we were talking about the water situation. Perhaps we should ask you about some of the other

aspects of life in the valley that you've noticed. What about fashions? Have you been conscious of many changes since you were in high school say and now?

STRICKLAND: Yes. We did not have...I was in junior high school before we started wearing slacks. Now they use to wear what you call pajamas, which my mother use to make for us. But I remember when I was in junior high school, there was a fad of these shoes. And they were cloth and you could buy them in any color and they laced up on the side and your desire was to have these different colors of shoes and mostly dresses and that's when you went to the full skirts. Now were my sisters were into the median blouse era but I just missed that. And of course during the war years we didn't have so much but the dresses were short. I was looking at pictures of that and we always wore high heels. Why I don't know, but we had short dresses and high heels. Then we went into the pants and they started wearing pants and coolots. Which and...peddle pushers. Then my daughter use to wear the peddle pusher. Then they went in...oh, when I was in 1944 the hems started dropping down. I remember we use to wear these long skirts, almost to the ankles and black stockings.

BOYER: And black stockings?

STRICKLAND: Oh yeah, the darker your stocking the more jazzy you were. And you wore the Gibson Girl blouses and the black skirts and that was the fad for quite awhile. And then we went into the more normal clothes and then in about 1955, there was these Drindle skirts. I don't know...and my daughter...they started wearing them and they put up about six crenlin slips under them and then they went into the quilted things and they would stick out, just as far out as you could get them the better you were. And you always had the little old flats they use to wear, the shoes. Then they went from that to the peddle pushers and then the "dyed to match" and the dyed to matches you weren't in...now this was in high school...unless your sweater was dyed to match the skirt. And I didn't understand it...it took me awhile to get this. You had to get a dyed to match outfit or you just weren't in. And there use to be a lot of angora used then and they were all in pastel colors and we went through that stage. And then it kind of tapered off and the capris and pants and now it's blue jeans. We've been through the whole route.

DODSON: What sort of costume did you wear when you worked at Lockheed during the war?

STRICKLAND: Ah, you had to wear pants. And you had to wear a thing on your head...a snood, they told us, or a hair net. But you couldn't wear a fine hair net, you could only wear certain kinds and I remember that's when during the war you'd take a square scarf, you'd under your hair and you'd bring it up here and you'd tie it at the top, then you took the two other ends and you brought them back and you tied them here and it puts your whole hair in a snood, because you wore your hair long, and you wore pompadours. You could leave your pompadour out if you had a hair net over it.

DODSON: Was that a safety measure then?

STRICKLAND: It was a safety measure. And you couldn't wear any loose sleeve type of things. Many, we wore pull over sweaters. It was cold out, there was no heat in those big hangers where you had to work.

DODSON: Oh my goodness. That must have been rather brisk in the winter then. It was really bad. Did you have anything else you wanted to tell us about Lockheed and the costumes that you wore at that time?

STRICKLAND: You had to wear closed shoes. I remember we use to...at that time...about the only thing you could find that was closed was there use to be a suede shoe and rubber soles. Now that wasn't a must but you had to have the closed shoes. Because you see the men wore those big old shoes with the metal capped toes but the women, there wasn't any, and there wasn't time to get anything and they were hiring at such a rate of people that it was just swing shift, graveyard, and day shift, and the whole thing. But we use to just wear pull over sweaters and we use to call them slacks then and the colored shoe. You'd take your lunch and Rosey the Riveter. It was an experience. I worked there about seven months and then I got pregnant and my daughter and then I stayed home. Of course you could be reinstated but I never went back. Of course by the time she was old enough to leave, the war over then. I kind of got in on it late. But it was an experience.

DODSON: Your husband was in the service I think you told us?

STRICKLAND: Yes, yes.

DODSON: Was in he France or in the South Pacific or here or what?

STRICKLAND: That was my first husband. This is my second husband now. But he went to France and Germany and Italy and he was in Lockheed and was deferred twice because at that time if you were a family man and you had a key job, you were retained there. You kept getting deferments and he had about two or three deferments from Lockheed. And then everybody went. There was hardly a man left in Burbank, you know, a young man. Really, it was an occasion. If you knew somebody that was coming home or was on a leave, you'd always get together. You'd always a party or something. You know, it was almost as like you were never going to see them again. And some of them you didn't. And of course after the war they all came home. I mean not all, I mean the ones that stayed that survived came home and stayed quite awhile and it was a good many years before they scattered. Because there was no place to go. You had to come to back till you find a place to live. There was a lot families live in the area then, in any of them.

DODSON: Can you tell us anything about fads that you've been conscious of? Sometimes I'm asked what I mean about that. Of course, associated with colleges I always think of the fads among the students. Like the gold

fish swallowing and how many could into a telephone booth at one time and that sort of thing.

STRICKLAND: The only fad I can remember was at that time, in high school, if you had a car, they use to lower them, and they were very lowered and smooth. And they use to put what they called skirts or pants on the fenders and they would be solid. You wouldn't but just the bottom part of the tire. I remember they did that. And they use to...if it was a convertible, they padded the roof. Everything was all smooth, they were very very smooth. And that was the in thing and a very very expensive proposition. That's the only fad about cars that I remember. As far as gold fish or anything like that I...they were very clothes conscious I remember. That was the zoot suit age.

DODSON: Now not a soul has mentioned zoot suits, so would you tell us what a zoot suit was so the future will know about that?

STRICKLAND: Yes. Well, one of the first persons to come around in town with a zoot suit was this young man I mentioned about that smoked the marijuana. He was the man about town. Well he and his friends came with these zoot suits. Dressed for to kill they

were small at the ankle. They had to take their shoes off to get them on but they were flat out at the knee and they always had a big chain with their keys on it and they use to swing this chain and the suits... In fact, I had a suit made at that time and the jacket was as long as your hands and then it had the short skirt. It was more jacket than skirt and at that time they use to go to in Los Angeles, if you're really in, this one tailor that would tailor these things, the material and all the girls. And if you were really in you wore one of these fitting collar zoot suits but it was basically the same thing as the men were doing. And they would wear sometimes these big floppy hats and they were quite colorful. And that was the rage there for awhile. And it didn't have the same feeling as like the kids now when they first started coming out with their levis. Zoot suits...the kids use to think you had to be a member of the mafia but at that time there was no connotation as far as being a bum or anything, at least to us, I mean you were in style. It was just nothing but style. And they had a few places around that made it and I noticed that when the boys come home from the service they were kind of going out of style then. And one of the first things, like my brother did, was when out and he had three suits tailored to fit. They all wanted

clothes after wearing army uniforms for so long. And they were always dressed, fit to kill. Everybody...you'd go to a party and they'd try to see what the other guy had on you know, very style conscious then. And that's about all I can remember about those styles.

MOTHER: All I can remember about it. Rufus, when my son was in the war, he was gone three years and he was a paratrooper and he had the worst time through that war and when he came home I hardly recognized him.

DODSON: Is that right?

MOTHER: Eight kids.

DODSON: It just occurred to me that you might remember another phase of valley life. Bootlegging, the prohibition era.

MOTHER: My husband was a prohibition agent.

DODSON: Is that right?

MOTHER: Yes. You remember up in the winery there where they had all the barrels and...

STRICKLAND: Scott Road and San Fernando Roads.

MOTHER: Yes, and it was his job to get in there and spill it.

DODSON: Was there much bootlegging in the valley to your knowledge?

MOTHER: Well there was yes, very much. But they soon cut it down. And I think that they whipped it.

STRICKLAND: Now then we have some pictures that were taken in the old winery. The bootleggers were in there making their booze and they went over and knocked over these stills and one of the favorite mode of transportation...I remember my dad saying for moving the booze was to take a...like a lumber truck and run the lumber down the sides like you had a load of lumber but the back was like an empty core. And then lift out the back pieces and put the booze in there. In fact, I think he has a picture of that.

MOTHER: You see my husband was the Chief of Police for three years. From 1921 to '24. Should I tell him about that?

STRICKLAND: What?

MOTHER: The treasury?

STRICKLAND: Oh sure.

MOTHER: Well, when he was Chief of Police the man...what was he now?

STRICKLAND: The treasurer.

MOTHER: The treasurer ran off with the funds, the city funds. And my husband traced him to Mississippi or Missouri and he wanted to go get him and bring him back. He had all the city funds and they wouldn't give him any money to do it. So my husband says, "I'm through with police work." And he quit.

DODSON: He was just disgusted at that I suppose?

STRICKLAND: Yes, he was. He traced the man to either Missouri or Mississippi and they wouldn't let him go. And I think that he finally came back to Burbank.

DODSON: How did he feel on this matter of bootlegging when he had to destroy this stuff? Did he approve of it or disapprove?

MOTHER: Well he didn't like to but he knew he had to. I don't whether he disapproved or approved but he didn't like to do it.

DODSON: But it was his job?

MOTHER: It was his job and he had to do it.

DODSON: I suppose that would be a problem in police work that would find cases where you might not be completely out of sympathy with the malefactor. What do you think about changes in morality if you've seen them or do you think there have been any?

STRICKLAND: Yes, because I think...well like I'd said earlier, I knew that if I talked bad or was not cordial, courteous or decent to people, I knew when I got home I would be in trouble and if we were mouthy, we were set straight. My father was very strict. But I think the parents are far too easy on their children and because like I say in my work, my husband's work, most all of the kids that got in trouble had so much freedom that they would make their own decisions what they were going to do and not going to do. Often in the library where I was a kids would destroy a book or write in the book. The

parents were never really too concerned. We had dozens of kids dumped on us for babysitting. At night we had to hire monitors and when we first opened our new library in 1963, the kids came in there by the hundreds and was going to make it their social headquarters. We had a time, bringing that back to being a library, instead of a place where the kids hung out. Total disregard for authority. Now they have paid, I call them "hired guns," just to keep order in the library so that the serious student can study. They're not afraid of you. You can tell them you're going to call their parents or you're going to throw them out or something, they don't care.

DODSON: You're mentioning the library in babysitting capacity reminds me of an acquaintance I had who was a theater manager. He suffered in the same way, of people bringing small children to the theater, it would be closing time and here these little kids still in the theater waiting for the parents to come. So apparently this is a problem that people wouldn't think about unless they were associated with these things.

STRICKLAND: Well that's true. We were next door to a parochial school and the kids would come right from school,

into the library and being a parochial there was about four or five in the family, brothers and sisters, and the older ones would come and the big ones would take off. And it had become a real problem for us with some people and like you say, they didn't pick them up when we were ready to close. So a few times we just thought, we're going to test this. So we called the police and said, "Here's these kids. We're going home and we don't have a parent." Well, that put a stop to it in a hurry for those particular families. We would have to tell the parents a lot of times that we weren't babysitters, they'd have to make other provisions. And they'd say, "Well, they be good. Now you sit there and you be quiet and you don't say anything." But if they behaved themselves, you become very sorry for these children. And what kind of life is it to have to sit in a public library for two or three hours waiting for a parent to pick you up. A lot of times you had a lot of compassion for these kids. But a lot of the parents, the kids were so unruly, that it was unbelievable. We would ban them from coming in, unless they sat down and read. And they'd hang outside the door until their mother came. And if we couldn't catch their mothers, we had complained to the school. And the school would say, "I know, I know. But there's nothing we can

do." And it was a problem. Kids are much more mouthy than they use to be. They will tell you, "So what, what are you going to do about it?" This bothers me.

DODSON: Paula, as a member of the present generation, do you care to comment on that. Were you a problem in school?

BOYER: No. My generation was a lot better. No, I was raised the same way but there's a lot of change now. But I mean didn't graduate that long ago but six or seven years ago from high school so there's been a difference. We use have dress codes and stuff when I was in school.

STRICKLAND: I heard the other day that some of the schools were discussing this, going back to a dress code. Now when my daughter went to high school...that's when they were wearing the short dresses, the minis were starting...you'd have to get on your knees and if your dress did not touch the ground, then you went sent home. But now, a little bit after that, they just gave up on that dress code. The kids and the parents had a meeting and decided to abandon the dress code. So the parent were in on it. I mean it was not just the kids, at least here in Burbank.

And I noticed that here a few years ago some of the teachers were sending some of the kids home or calling the parents because it was getting pretty bad. Like spaghetti strap blouses wearing them and things of that type.

DODSON: I don't know just what could be done about that because I think probably if a parent wanted to make an issue out of it, it could be taken into court and you'd never know how the judge would decide. The decision could very likely go against you. We don't at the college make any attempt to regulate clothes at the present time, as far as I know.

BOYER: But at time your dealing with a different...I don't think the colleges haven't have they ever?

DODSON: Well yes. We...

STRICKLAND: That's a long time ago.

DODSON: ...in the past we did have a rule that a person had to meet certain standards. Although we were pretty vague on what the standards were.

BOYER: But then you're supposedly dealing with an older individual. More mature I mean hopefully.

DODSON: But I can say that in the period since I've been teaching at Los Angeles Valley College, I began in 1949, there has been a considerable change. For instance, all the girls wore dresses when I first began teaching. And now they wear slacks and jeans. So there's been quite a change there, I would say.

STRICKLAND: Well we had a little problem when the long hair came in. Now in the library they told some of the kids that unless they cut their hair, they couldn't get these jobs. Well they were like you said, you really couldn't enforce it, if the kid pushed it. But I think it had become just acceptable after awhile because every kid had it. You couldn't find one to hire that didn't have it, generally speaking. So the long hair thing was an issue where I worked and the clothes. Now they did have a dress code there basically because during the days of the mini skirts, some of them came in and the library attracts a lot of kooky people, and the girls in their little short dresses putting books on the top rack was presenting a problem. And we had to have the police there a few times because of these...well, it was attracting the kooks, you know, the peekers through the stacks and this type of thing. So then at that time the girls weren't allowed to wear pants and actually the young girls

were the first ones to wear pants in the city in jobs because of this. Then eventually they allowed everybody to wear them. It's only been the last few years that we could wear them to work.

DODSON: I was going to ask you whether the City of Burbank has any sort of dress code for its workers. Well, they supposedly did. They told us that we could not wear pants. And then the City Manager said he would leave it up to the individual department heads. Well our department head said, "No woman in this library is going to wear pants." Well, the way he said it, we said back to him, "You want to bet." So we got a petition and we sent it to the City Manager because we knew that his secretary was wearing pant suits to work and wanted to know why we were being discriminated against. And I believe I composed the letter.

DODSON: Then you're a good person to ask for the inside on this.

STRICKLAND: Yes, yes. So the City Manager said he had no objection but it was still up to the department head. Well, the department head...I mean how can you...if the City Manager allows it, how can you

very well enforce it in his own department. So it was dropped.

BOYER: It only seems logical that you should wear slacks ? I mean because of the work you do.

STRICKLAND: It was. It was a bone really because you do a lot of lifting and stooping with books and stuff.

BOYER: With the shelves and stepping down.

STRICKLAND: It was pretty hard work some time when you were doing that. So we were kind of liberated women in the library.

DODSON: This would be generally true then, the city has no kind of a dress code at the present time?

STRICKLAND: No, they do not, no.

DODSON: Now we have in our outline a question on politics. Do you thing that the students now our more interested in political questions than they use to? When you were in high school were you interested in national and international questions would you say? Or state or local?

STRICKLAND: I was, yes. Because my father was very interested in politics and he always was into it. And I personally enjoy it. In fact, I just very recently, a few weeks ago, would up last night, was working for the reelection of our present mayor that we have here in Burbank. And I enjoy it because I don't like apathy. And when I went to a meeting Thursday night just for city employees to interview the people that have to go in the run off. And I couldn't believe how many people were disinterested that don't come, that don't want to even care. But they will complain bitterly if it doesn't work out. But I figure if I'm in there working for him, it's my fault if I get the wrong guy elected.

DODSON: Do you think that part of what you call apathy might be a feeling that government is not responsive to the people, so it doesn't really make much difference. That nobody is going to pay attention to them anyway.

STRICKLAND: Yes, yes. In fact, we've got a lot of this over this airport issue. The 20% that was against it said this, "That you're doing something we don't want." So there's 20% of those people feel they are not being represented or listened to. And you get this...the majority rules isn't always. And the

City Council is doing what they think is best for the general city. And we have a new west Olive redevelopment area that's suppose going in. It would be for like the Bob Hope Museum and the National Recording Artists. I think it's the Grammy Awards want a headquarter here. Getting an awful rejection to it and the council voted to do this redevelopment out there across from NBC Studios. Well people out there say that our council are not listening to them. They don't want it. So I think you're always going to get this. But I think the city is merely responded to the need of the masses. We have a pretty progressive council right now. Three of them our Burbank boys that lived here for years and years and years. And they're doers and shakers and it is shaking a lot of our old things that they have clung to and a lot of the old ideas of not being as progressive as we should have been. And I get very involved in it because I feel strongly. People say, "How can you be a member of the historical society and be so active in it. And you're for redevelopment." Well, you can't save everything and you have to provide for the future. And you're not going to do it in the 17 square miles unless you redevelop something.

BOYER: Because they're still in history stance too.

STRICKLAND: That's right.

BOYER: You've got to create your own at the same time.

DODSON: In the time that you've lived here in the valley, what would you regard as the most important thing that's happened in Burbank or to Burbank?

STRICKLAND: The most important thing? Well, I think one of the...for the community...not for myself, is the development in our motion picture industry. We are...people laugh...we are the motion picture capital of the world. We have more productions, more active studio in, well productions going then anywhere else in the world.

DODSON: I wonder if you'd name the studios that are headquartered here in Burbank at the present time.

STRICKLAND: Well, you have Burbank Studios, which is located with Warner Bros. Now they are two separate things. People think they're the same but they're not. The Burbank Studio is run by another whole administration and then the Warner Bros. end of it, which houses like Screen Gems, which was an off-chute of Columbia. So Columbia is here and the bases of all of this work is the studio leases their

lots and their facilities to these production companies. They have many many television shows like The Waltons and lord, I don't know what all, that use it. We have what you call a "non-stop policy" for people that want to shoot pictures on the streets here in Burbank. They gain get a permit and every state in care of write to them and they can shoot and we have a lot filmmaking on our streets and in our public buildings.

BOYER: That's true. A fellow shoots your door?

STRICKLAND: The new...our ? series...the series is around this man, somebody in the rabbi, I don't even know the name of him but their city is Cameron and they use our City Hall and they over our seal they plunked this thing "Cameron City Hall". Then all over our building is Cameron. Downstairs they have a Bureau of Vital Statistics on one of the doors. And they just leave it there because they're coming back all the time and shooting. But we have the Columbia Ranch which houses a lot of these scenes. Along Olive Avenue, in the last two years, there has been probably five productions companies and as many film editing companies that have in. It's attracting all of this related business and it's good, good for the...I think that's probably the one thing, one of

the best things I think that's happened to Burbank in a long time.

BOYER: There's Walt Disney too.

STRICKLAND: Yeah, oh yeah it's a large company too.

DODSON: Yes, I was about to say you've forgotten one of the best known ones.

STRICKLAND: Well, we also have Cathedral Films, which is Billy Gramham's studio is in Burbank.

DODSON: Yes, I've heard of them. They make only religious films, do they not?

STRICKLAND: I mean Worldwide Films and then we also have Cathedral Films, which is religious films. So we have a lot of smaller companies and we have St. Joseph's which is one of the biggest medical centers in the whole area for a hospital.

DODSON: Does NBC have a building here too?

STRICKLAND: Yes, NBC Studios within the year we hear they are probably going to move their New York Headquarters here too. It will be the NBC Studios. The color

sets here. They have room to expand. In fact, they just built a new section on that. It's something like two hundred and some thousand dollars in additional space. So I think this is our...the direction that the city's taking...the community, I think we are definitely. That's our thing.

DODSON: Well, now the opposite. Is there anything that you can think of in Burbank history that you think was especially bad, that you're sorry to have had happened?

STRICKLAND: Oh, well to me one of the, like I say it isn't being bad for the community. But they did a lot of rezoning in areas like where we use to live when we were kids and put those big factories where two of our house were and it's an industrial area and that really gets me. Like to me, the city grew around this area but as it spread, this area near the railroad tracks and near the town and the freeway has all been industrialized.

DODSON: Of course a number of the people I have talked to in the valley have been a little sorry if they think back of the days when it was covered with fields and flowers and all that. They're a little bit sorry that's it built up now. Although, they again, feel that that is progress. They couldn't have stopped it but they look back on the days when the skies were clear and you could see the mountains in the distance and all that. So I suppose there is a little tendency to feel that way and you may feel it in regard to the areas you're talking about.

STRICKLAND: Yes. In fact, the other day when the wind was blowing I went outside and I told my husband, "I just had a recollection of a childhood smell." He thought I was crazy but where we live you go up to the store, you went through these vacant lots and these big tumble weeds would go and they would just be uprooted and they had a certain smell about them. And I said, "I smell those tumble weeds." Because there was lots of vacant lots and wherever you went. In fact, I could walk home from San Fernando Blvd. to our house and maybe only two cars passes on Olive Avenue and below the tracks there, there was an apricot orchard and we use live on the other side of

it. And we lived in this farmhouse where we lived when that first earthquake came and the property around us was leased out for gardening and the man use to have cantaloupes and tomatoes, six acres around us and that's where our Public Service Department sits today. And that was all orchards and farms in through there and out farther when we lived out in the valley...a little farther there in Burbank...it was walnuts and peaches and apricots and some the apricot trees are still standing. And you'd go along and you'd see all of this green and open fields and people who had their little gardens and stuff. That's true, I miss that. You really...and it's gone forever.

DODSON: That takes us to something else. Can you tell us about any historic sites or buildings here in Burbank that are still standing?

STRICKLAND: Well at the mall in...well which was San Fernando Road and Olive...is the first brick block building in Burbank, which was built in 1887. And our first City Council met there. That building still stands. It's been remodeled numerous times. The blocks are still there because a piece of it fell off here the other day and you could still see the brick up there. We had turned it in as a historical building

and we've talked to the city about it. But the fact that it's been remodeled so many times, it's not...they don't feel that it's really of historical significance. So I don't know. There's a difference of opinion there. But there are some homes up on Olive that are built out of rock, river rock that people built. And when they built them, I understand that people thought they were crazy. But they're still standing and they're very attractive down here. And we have a house on Buena Vista and Magnolia...it use to face Magnolia and it was a Knapp homestead and it was built in the 1800's. And then down the hill from me here was a Fairburn house and it's totally restored the way it was back in those days. It's a beautiful old house. Now it was in Burbank at one time. But then Glendale annexed that part and because of an error in the county it was left out of the original layout for Burbank and so now it's Glendale. That's still standing. We have quite a few of the old houses still standing.

DODSON: Is that house now in private ownership?

STRICKLAND: Yes. The Fairburn Family built it and it was there house. And then I understand that the Mayor of Glendale or City Manager or a Mr. Reed, I think he's the Postmaster, he lived in it and owned it for

years. Then a city employee, Vandanevors?, who are old timer Burbank people, they bought it and started really restoring it. Now a Mrs. and Mr. Dunn live in there and they've left it and just in its state. It still a little wire Victorian fence. It's really lovely. And the Jergen's Soap Factory was built there in the early 1920s. In 1920 Mooreland Truck Factory was built at Alameda and San Fernando Road. And that was the first million dollar industry to come into Burbank. And the city fathers got together and raised the money to buy the property for $25,000 and gave it to them to build on it. Where the office building is now gone and torn down but the factory is still there and it is still in use, that's there. And the old McKennan Cannery Company, that's still there. That was built in 1922. There are a lot of the factories that are still in use.

DODSON: Does the Jergen's Factory still have a plant here?

STRICKLAND: Yes, it's right in the same spot. The Andrew Jergens, right at the railroad tracks and Verdugo. You use to pass it. You could smell it when they would make...we lived just down the street from it...that's where we lived when the terrible flood. But when they make certain soaps or hand lotions,

you can smell it over the whole valley. And then across the street from it was Libby Packing Company. And they use to can tomatoes and pickles and I don't know if remember, mother, the smell. Whatever they were making you could...and all our neighbors, the Pescanpani family, the Stephanos... These Italian ladies all worked in the cannery and they worked on the seasons. And that was...that's another thing I remember. That area stands out so strong in my mind and that's all industry now. There's quite a few things still hanging around.

DODSON: Could you give us the names of some long time residents of Burbank that you think that we should interview?

STRICKLAND: Have you talked to a George Dewey?

DODSON: No.

STRICKLAND: Now he's been here many many years. Let's see if I have his address. He's at 425 E. Magnolia, Burbank, Apt. F. Very knowledgeable man.

DODSON: Do you happen to have his telephone number.

STRICKLAND: I don't have a phone number on it. I could probably get one for you. Then there's a Bonnie Brae, my mother could probably give you her number. But she was married to a doctor and she had a big horse ranch in Burbank, down at the St. Joseph's Hospital and she was a trick rider and a horse woman.

MOTHER: I seen her the other day.

STRICKLAND: She's really broken up in a million pieces. She was a great pianist and she has a lot knowledge about that area in years ago. A whole different perspective than we have.

MOTHER: If I were to talk to her, what would I say?

STRICKLAND: Get her address and phone number.

MOTHER: Is that all? Oh, okay, I'll do that.

DODSON: We'd be very glad to have it.

MOTHER: I'll do that. I see her every day.

STRICKLAND: Have you talked to Clyde Fainot? It's at 573 E. Magnolia. I can get you a phone number on that too.

DODSON: How is his name spelled?

STRICKLAND: Fainot. Now for 30 years he was a mailman. A foot mailman. One of our first foot mailmen in Burbank. And he has a tremendous knowledge of people and where they lived in buildings and things, very sharp. We have a, oh Lord I can't think of this other name, a lady that lives here that's very knowledgeable too. Have you talked to Walter Story?

DODSON: No, his name has been suggested to us. How would we get in contact with him?

STRICKLAND: Okay. Good grief, I thought he was on here. I have his name and address I can get for you.

DODSON: Another person who's name has been suggested was Mrs. Edgerly, Florence Edgerly.

STRICKLAND: Florence Edgerly, right. Now do any of the Pomoroy people. Did anybody give you Pomoroy's?

DODSON: No, no one has given us that name. Well there's a Fletcher Pomoroy at 1038 E. Magnolia but...now wait a minute...she died. Their daughter...you would have to go through a Mrs. Bacon on that. I don't

have her down here either but I can get that for you.

BOYER: Who Mrs. Bacon?

STRICKLAND: She lives in Glendale and her...she was related to the Pomoroy family. There's any number of people...this is our membership list here that I was trying to get. But there is a Mrs. Gibbons. Did somebody give you a name of a Gladys Gibbons?

DODSON: Yes, now we interviewed her this week.

STRICKLAND: Did you? She's a lady that I've never been able to get up to. Now we have Hal Brown, Sr.

DODSON: No.

STRICKLAND: Now we have a three hour tape on him. Probably we could let you copy that tape.

DODSON: Oh fine.

STRICKLAND: It would save you...cause one of our old time fellows interviewed him. I haven't heard it.

DODSON: Isn't that a name you've heard of, Paula.

BOYER: For some reason that was on my ? The one that was going to be interviewed by the Preventive...

STRICKLAND: Want me to give you her name?

BOYER: Yes, that's the way we do it. In the tower.

STRICKLAND: Pacific Manor, right. And she's there now I think. She came in the 1800's here. She's one of our first people here.

DODSON: Yes, we plan to interview her next week.

STRICKLAND: I know there's a lot of...I have a list of names.

DODSON: Antidotes.

BOYER: ? Is the machine on. I didn't know it was on. But we were just wondering if there was anything that you wanted to have recorded that maybe we haven't touched on? A question for that?

STRICKLAND: Gee, I can't think of anything...we've been talking on and on. There was one thing that came up on your list. Is said, "What did people years and years ago do?" Well my mother and I were talking about this morning, about the only thing when they came here in

1911 and she could remember would be they did have occasional dances for the young people. And that was about it.

DODSON: Yes, we would like to know about that? But that's about all you did, was the dances?

MOTHER: My father did not believe in dancing. Therefore, I didn't dance. But I watched.

DODSON: Well was that much fun?

MOTHER: No. Because I wanted to dance.

DODSON: Did you teach your daughter not to dance also?

MOTHER: More power to her. I didn't care if my children danced.

STRICKLAND: We danced...I do remember during the war at the Elk's Club, they use have swing shift dances and I know this was horrifying a lot of people. That their kids wanted to go dancing after midnight. And I remember I went once but that was about it. It was people, they'd get off work in the defense plants and they'd go jitterbug at the Elk's Club every week at these dances. And of course we did a

lot of things in the USO's and the churches and different things of that type.

DODSON: No one has mentioned the USO to us before. Did you attend those or go to those?

STRICKLAND: No, I didn't. I knew people that had done it. There was the one in Hollywood. We just had a very small thing here. Everybody went to Hollywood during the war. I don't know why, what the attraction was. It was one of the few places where you could go and where they would have music. We seldom had bands that played here but the USO in Hollywood was just alive with people. And the kids would always, "Let's go to the USO, you know."

DODSON: By the time you were in high school, probably there were other things popular besides dancing, weren't there? Did you like to go to the beach? Was that popular?

STRICKLAND: Yes. I spent about three summers, a month each year with friends of mine at the beach. We'd go up to Ventura. I remember it was an all day drive. It was...it was just, it seemed like it would take forever. But we did that and we had...I use to belong to the club and we had...oh one of our

favorite things to do was... Because I don't think you even knew it.

MOTHER: ? that too.

DODSON: She's finding out some things.

STRICKLAND: Well, where the old Travel Town was in Griffith Park. Well at the end of Mariposa Street in Burbank, there was an old wood horse bridge that went across the Los Angeles River and the horse would go and you would sway. Well, if you'd watch and there was no horses coming...my friends and I we'd take our bicycles and we'd run across the bridge and go over the bridge and go over which is now Forest Lawn Drive and we'd go down the road a little bit where Travel Town was there was a CC Camp there.

MOTHER: Oh really.

STRICKLAND: And it had all of these young boys over there and they would working around and painting and fixing up. And we would talk to them and visit with them. And I remember that was a no-no. But...

DODSON: You would have put a stop to that in a hurry if you'd known about it, huh?

MOTHER: Well I don't know to tell you the truth.

STRICKLAND: But that was one of the entertainments for the girls then. It was off limits but it was in the park. If you went over to the park, you went right by it. You couldn't help but see it. And we did a lot of bicycling riding. And we use to go to park. We had school dances and things like that.

DODSON: Movies were popular I suppose, weren't they?

STRICKLAND: Very very popular. We always went to the movies on Saturday. It cost us a dime. And we would walk up to Del Amo or the Burbank theater and see the movies. A big entertainment. Most people go to town on Saturday. At that time most of our markets were up on the boulevard...San Fernando Blvd. or Glenoaks. There was very few. There was little Johnnie's Market on Verdugo that we use to go to. There wasn't too many markets around. There was a little Mexican market on Verdugo and Flower Street, which is still a market. It's where they buy their tortillas and stuff.

DODSON: Was this before the day of the big super markets of the type we have now then?

STRICKLAND: Yes, the first big super market I remember was the Safeway. It was built on Glenoaks. And I use to go up there with my grandmother. That was a real treat. They had check-out stands. Up to that point we use go to a market called Codedan's? and they always took the stuff off the shelf for you. And that Safeway was the first one went in and it was a self help. It's a toy shop in there now and the building's still there. And then gradually they became more...but there were more neighborhood markets, meat markets and stuff.

DODSON: Can you think of anything else that we haven't asked about that you...?

STRICKLAND: Gosh, I can't think of a thing. It just seems like I've talked to an arm and leg off of you.

DODSON: Well, that's just what we came for.

STRICKLAND: Well I don't know if it's going to be of any help. I hope it will.

DODSON: I'm sure it will.

STRICKLAND: I've enjoyed it. It's been very interesting.

DODSON: Paula, do you have any other questions?

BOYER: No...I'll probably think of them when I get home.

DODSON: Well, we certainly appreciate all that you've done for us and allowing us to come and tape all of these things.

STRICKLAND: It's my pleasure.

DODSON: Thank you very much.

You have been listening to an interview with Mrs. Mary Jane Strickland of the Burbank Historical Society. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, Curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Miss Paula Boyer, Field Duputy for the museum. The date is March 5, 1977.

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